

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33, 1, 1-14.

Background of Bili Government

1. Between 1947 and 1950, Bali was governed by a Council of Rajahs which was presided over by Anak Agung Gde Oka, younger son of the Rajah of Gianjar. Bali was part of the Dutch-sponsored State of East Indonesia. The Premier of East Indonesia was Anak Agung Gde Agung, the elder son of the Rajah of Gianjar. This Government functioned peacefully and well for more than three years.
2. When the present Government was inaugurated the Council of Rajahs was dispensed with. The head of the former Government, Anak Agung Gde Oka, is now the acting Rajah of Gianjar. Bali is now governed by the Government Council, which is presided over by Anak Agung I Gusti Sutedja, a former leader of the pemudas and of the Committee of Indonesian Nationalist Pemudas. Bali comes under the jurisdiction of the Governor of the Lesser Sundas, Susanto Tirtoprodjo, a leader of the Partai Nasional Indonesia in Java. The Governor lives in Singaradja, in north Bali. The new Military Governor is Major Islam Salim, son of Hadji Agus Salim. His predecessor was Major Sitanala, an able Royal Netherlands Indonesian Army (RNIA) officer.

Problems Facing Bali.

3. Bali is now faced with the following problems:
 - a. The rajah and the feudal system versus a more modern system and the pemudras.
 - b. Whether to maintain the traditional Balinese administrators, the Punggawas and the Perbekes, heads of the districts and the village groups respectively.
 - c. The lack of experience of the pemudras and the fact that the pemudras and the Republican elements look to Java for leadership and reform.
 - d. The activities of the Angkatan Perang Republik Indonesia (APRI).

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4. The era of government by the rajahs is generally accepted as being over. Most authorities agree that this will not affect Bali adversely. Some of the rajahs were good men who looked after their people, but they were not of vital importance to the administration of Bali. On the whole they did collaborate with the Dutch in order to retain their power and this has weakened their case in the eyes of the pemudas and of the Central Government.
5. The position of the Pungrawas and the Perbekels is quite a different matter. These men, often quite rich in terms of rice fields and often relatives of the rajahs' families, are the backbone of Bali's administration. They serve the people in numerous capacities, acting as police, administrators, protectors of the arts and customs, and as mediators in all matters of importance, except in purely religious affairs. They are the traditional, the experienced government personnel of Bali. Had the new Government in Bali been wise, it would have tried to work with the Pungrawas and the Perbekels and to have utilized their abilities. This has not been done and so far a dozen of the one hundred Pungrawas have resigned.
6. The pemudas, young students who had received some rudimentary military training under the Japanese system of Heiho groups, played a large part in the Revolution and the general struggle against the colonial regime. Eventually they formed the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI). The great handicap of the pemudas is their lack of education and experience. Although they are physically feared, they are not respected by the traditionalist Balinese. The pemudas have to look to Java and the APRI for support as well as for educational opportunities. In common with other areas of Indonesia, Bali now claims to have thousands of pemudas. Although the Dutch used brutal methods against the pemudas in 1946, the fact remains that for three years the island was controlled by a thousand police who had no active support from the army.
7. The Indonesian army is a young army at the beginning of its history and organization. It is lacking in discipline and is often involved in politics. Bali was a peaceful island until the APRI arrived. When Denpasar became filled with military police, armed troops, sentries carrying Sten guns, and fast driving trucks and jeeps the Balinese were unhappy and frightened by these Javanese invaders who had descended on them. APRI personnel are young and raw and have a crude nationalist patriotism. These forces were approached by the pemudas who said they were the only patriotic Balinese and they pointed out many who had collaborated with the Dutch. The pemudas accused the members of Sjahrir's Partai Sosialis Indonesia (PSI) of being corrupt and of being spies for the Dutch. It was natural and inevitable that these young members of the army and the pemudas should cooperate.

Assassinations

8. When the army arrived in mid-July shootings and murders began. Sten guns and automatic weapons were used. Balinese, Chinese and Eurasians who had done espionage work for the Dutch or had been involved in the death of pemudas in 1946 were victims. Some entirely innocent persons were killed. In all about 95 murders were committed, mostly in and around Singaradja on the north coast. So far there has been no anti-white feeling, but in Denpasar there is the beginning of this, because the people are afraid and because of the attitude of the army. The local government and the police are powerless to act because the army has forbidden them to do so. The situation is further complicated by the fact that there are still among the police persons who formerly did espionage work for the Dutch and persons who were involved in the action against the pemudas.

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Leaders

9. Three army officers have been active in encouraging the perudas and in helping them to obtain weapons. They are:

Lt. Col. Dr. Suwarno

In 1946 he was a member of the RNIA and served in Java. He subsequently received a commission in the Indonesian Army medical corps and in 1950 was sent to Bali.

Capt. Subowo

A member of the Military Police

Capt. Prasmono

In September 1950 he ordered all village chiefs to turn in their arms, including swords and knives.

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Comment.

For another account of the situation in Bali see

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